

# GORDON ALLPORT

## “Building blocks” of Personality

### I. Cardinal Trait – giant-sized; life organized around

1. Not everyone has one of these
2. ie. Someone who spends their life seeking fame, or fortune
3. Look to history....
  - (i) Joan of Arc (heroic self-sacrifice)
  - (ii) Mother Teresa (religious service)
  - (iii) MLK – (social contentiousness) – improve life for African Americans



### II. Central Traits – major characteristic of a person;

1. can have more than one
2. When you describe someone, you are likely to use words that refer to these: smart, dumb, wild, shy, sneaky, dopey, grumpy.
3. ~b/n 5 & 10
4. Hillary Clinton – outspoken; allows her to w/stand criticism



### III. Secondary Traits – Preferences, attitudes, situational traits

1. many, many of these
2. doesn't explain general behavior patterns
3. Ie. Personal style; “he gets angry when you try to tickle him”

